

Abagold sets benchmark for adult education

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Abagold Limited held a graduation ceremony on Wednesday, 6 May for ten new Abet students who participated in the adult education programme for the first time.

Abagold was the first abalone farm to participate in the Agriseta's national adult basic education and training (Abet) intervention, and continues to produce notable results.

"The Abet intervention introduced in 2005, has helped us offer employees an educational foundation, making it possible for them to access further skills development opportunities put in place by the company," says Mynhardt van Dyk, Abagold training manager.

Speaking at the certificate ceremony, Bertram September of Media Works, the adult education specialists contracted by Agriseta, said: "Despite the intense production conditions of the marine aquaculture industry, Abagold has not seen this as a barrier to training. Rather, the company has integrated training into the daily activities of the farm." The farm's appointment of full-time training manager and the MD, Christo du Plessis' consistent interest and presence at all significant events have been key reasons for Abet's continued success at the farm.

"Abagold has set the benchmark for Abet training not only in the marine aquaculture industry but definitely on our Agriseta project in general," says September. "We are using Abagold as an example of best practice as part of our expansion to abalone farms on the West Coast."

Van Dyk, who is credited for the training interventions success, says: "We have proven that Abet can exist and be successful in any industry, despite the long production hours that characterise this business. My advice to companies considering Abet is simply do it. The foundation Abet provides makes the introduction of other training easier; but it is also the life –skills and comprehensive effect it has on employees' lives that helps us maintain learners' interest and perseverance."

To date Abagold has 83 employees on the programme, of which six have trained up to Level 4. Parallel to the Abet training, Abagold also provides job-related training forming part of individual employee's career path.

